GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:573
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
THEFT OF COMPUTERS
AKHILESH SINGH;BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH;CHADA SURESH REDDY;DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO;NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA;TUFANI SAROJ;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 20 computers were stolen from DRDO office in Delhi alongwith classified data on India`s defence strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any probe has been ordered into the matter;

(d) if so, the progress made so far;

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible for security lapses; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to tighten the security arrangements at key locations in DRDO Delhi office?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): There was a theft of 18 computers Central Processing Units(CPU) from two laboratories of DRDO situated in Metcalfe House, NewDelhi in October, 2003 and the matter was reported to the police and a case registered vide FIR No. 235 dated 9.10.2003 under section 380 IPC, Police Station-Civil Lines. Data lost has been identified and it is of non sensitive nature.

(c) Yes, Sir. The formal inquiries have been ordered.

(d) The inquiry ordered by Raksha Mantri by an outside expert toinvestigate the sensitivity of stored data has stated that the data lost is of non-sensitive nature. Inquiries by Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) are still continuing.

(e) Departmental inquiry for taking disciplinary action has been ordered.

(f) The new measures to tighten the security arrangements are: strengthening boundary walls with concertina wire, grilling of doors and windows, installing Access Control Measures and Watch Towers, removing wild growth and trimming of overhanging trees over boundary walls and augmenting manpower of security staff.